

only species reported so far from Kerala under this genus. Menon (1997) considers *O. bakeri* as rare in Kerala. Except *O. cotio peninsularis* the two other subspecies of *O. cotio* are commonly distributed in North India, while the former is only distributed in the rivers of peninsular India: Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Type locality of *O. cotio peninsularis* is Pune. There was no authentic record on the occurrence of this species from the freshwaters of Kerala. While conducting a survey in Periyar river in central Kerala, we collected the species from Aluva region. The species is very rare in the collections, as only two specimens were obtained along with some other *Puntius* spp. The present

report thus extends its distribution to the rivers of Kerala.

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22. *MYSTUS BLEEKERI* (DAY) — AN ADDITION TO THE FISH FAUNA OF KERALA

Bleeker (1846) originally described *Bagrus keletius* (*Mystus bleekeri*) from Bengal. In 1877 Day modified the taxon as *Macrones bleekeri* (Talwar & Jhingran, 1991). It is characterised by a depressed head and an elongate, compressed body. Barbels four pairs, the maxillary barbels extend posteriorly to the anal fin. A large adipose fin is present. Body colour in life is brownish above and lighter below. Two longitudinal bands present above and below the lateral line. There is also a dark shoulder spot on either side below the lateral line.

Mystus bleekeri is generally confined to northern India and, according to Hora (1940), the southernmost limit is the Mahanadi headwaters. It inhabits lakes, tanks and rivers. There has been no report of this species from Kerala. While conducting a survey on the distribution of freshwater fishes in Neyyar River,

we collected two specimens of *Mystus bleekeri* (of 5.4 and 6.0 cm total length) from Ottasekaramangalam thodu in Thiruvananthapuram dist. The collection site has a mixed substrate of detritus, mud, sand, cobble and bedrock, sand being the most dominant.

The diagnostic characters are the same as those given in the original description, except for some minor differences.

D. 1/7-8, P. 1/9-10, A. 9-10, C. 17

The present record extends the range of distribution of the species to Kerala.

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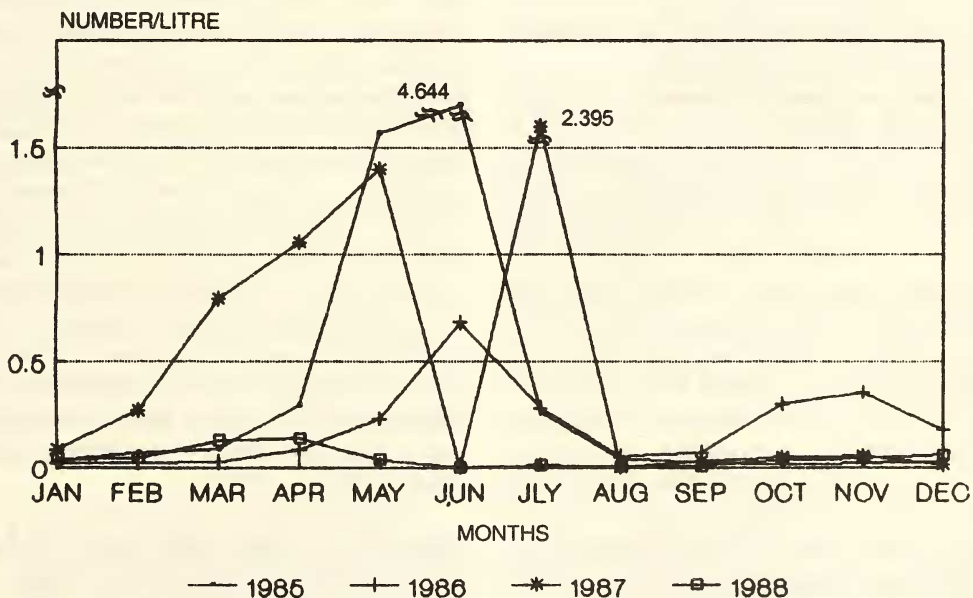
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23. SEASONAL ABUNDANCE AND CHECKLIST OF AQUATIC BUGS AND BEETLES OF KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, BHARATPUR, INDIA

(With two text-figures)

The Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur is known for the large congregation of waterfowl and other aquatic birds which feed mainly on aquatic insects and fishes (Ali and Vijayan, 1983). Even though some preliminary studies were carried out

on the aquatic insect fauna of the Park (Mahajan *et al.*, 1982), a complete and authentic checklist is not available. Most of the insects were identified up to family level. (Ali and Vijayan 1986, and Vijayan 1991). The present report covers the



ABUNDANCE OF BEETLES: 1985-1988

Fig. 1: Average number of beetles collected from Keoladeo National Park